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FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8158  
INFO RUEHZK/ECOWAS COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUCNMGH/MAGHREB COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY 0492  
RUEHLI/AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY 0030  
RUEHMD/AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY 2018  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 0822  
RUEHPG/AMEMBASSY PRAGUE PRIORITY 0061  
RUEHRB/AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY 7660  
RUEHTRO/AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY 0021  
RHMFISS/COMSOCEUR VAHINGEN GE PRIORITY  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY  
RHMFISS/HQ USAFRICOM STUTTGART GE PRIORITY  
RUEHDS/USMISSION USAU ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY  
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY 0536  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0927

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 000159

SIPDIS

PARIS FOR KANEDA; RABAT FOR JACKSON; SECSTATE FOR  
AF-BOULWARE; AF/W-HEFLIN/DENNISON; USEU FOR FRANCIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/22/2019

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [MR](#)

SUBJECT: POST-PARIS: TWO REQUESTS FROM FNDD

REF: NOUAKCHOTT 157

Classified By: CDA Cornelius C. Walsh for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) Charge met with National Front for the Defense of Democracy President (FNDD), Abdelkoudouss Abeidna, February 20 as Abeidna received word from Paris regarding the outcome of the OIF Consultative Committee meeting regarding Mauritania. (Note: FNDD is national coalition of 14 political parties, Abeidna is president of the National Development Party and FNDD President for the month of February in a rotating monthly Presidency. End note.)

¶2. (C) While initially pleased with the results of the meeting, upon reading the posted OIF communiqu , Abeidna's reaction was less enthusiastic. EU support for AU targeted sanctions appeared less than firm. RFD proposal for turning government over to President of the Senate as well as Junta proposal to step down on/about April 22 seemed to be considered on equal basis with FNDD/Presidential camp proposal for Abdahllahi return, honorable exit of Junta, and national presidential and/or parliamentary elections. Worse still, the Europeans, Francophonie, Arab League, OIC, and AU participants appeared to have left the door open to continued mediation or intervention in Mauritanian affairs by AU President Muammar Qadhafi.

¶3. (C) After considerable multi-cell consultations with the FNDD Paris delegation, the Presidential camp, and fellow FNDD leaders in Mauritania, Abeidna made the following requests to the Charge:

i. That the US publicly underline its support for a peaceful resolution, consonant with the Mauritanian constitution by endorsing the recent proposal by President Abdahllahi to return and step down in favor of a new round of independently organized presidential/parliamentary elections. If full endorsement not possible, noting it as a positive step forward would be welcomed as well. The FNDD also asked that the US endorse the February 5 call for targeted sanctions by the African Union peace and Security Council and indicate that it, too, would be developing a targeted sanctions process at the appropriate time.

ii. Mr. Abeidna again repeated the FNDD's request that the US move swiftly to apply targeted sanctions against members of the Junta and especially against their supporters among the business community. The FNDD representatives present helpfully suggested specific names and companies. Charge demurred.

¶4. (C) After two weeks of solid action (Presidential proposal, massive public rally, large local gatherings), the FNDD's disappointment at the tepid tone of the Paris meeting is understandable. We assured President Abeidna that we would take his requests under consideration and relay them to the responsible authorities. We cautioned him and his colleagues that action would not be necessarily easy or immediate, particularly regarding sanctions. However, this Embassy does believe that action on these requests may be helpful to our overall policy objective of returning Mauritania to a democratic government and, perhaps, encouraging allies to take more active steps in their progress towards the same goal.

WALSH